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Spy Target: Foreign Students in U.S.

The deaths of a Libyan student and a Taiwanese professor are raising fears that foreign spies have infiltrated college campuses across the U.S.

Academic officials say the July deaths loosed a "surge of paranoia" among foreign students, many of whom have felt for months they were being watched by agents of their home governments.

The body of the Libyan, Nabil Abuzed Mansour, was found in the trunk of a car in Ogden, Utah. The FBI began trying to determine whether Mansour was shot for ignoring an order by Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi's regime to return to Libya.

In the Taiwanese case, Chen Wen-chen, a mathematics professor at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, was found dead in Taiwan after being interrogated for 13 hours about alleged activities in the U.S. against his home government. Taiwan officials said he jumped to his death from a building.

Rumors of "hit lists" and of threats against families of students are rife on some U.S. campuses. Iranians, who account for nearly a sixth of America's 286,343 foreign students, believe their actions are being reported to Iran's Islamic regime. South Korean students say they are watched by informers paid by the Korean Embassy in Washington.



Taiwanese students in Pittsburgh protest professor's mysterious death in Taiwan.

A court in Taiwan sent a former University of Minnesota student to prison for 14 years in January for "spreading Communist ideology" during her stay in America. A Libyan student who had criticized Qadhafi was shot and blinded in one eye at Colorado State University last October. Police charged that an American was hired to shoot him.

A subcommittee of the House of Representatives called a hearing for July 30 to study the wave of campus terrorism. But a Hong Kong student at the University of Michigan said the motive was plain. "There is a saying in Chinese," he said. "When you kill one, you warn one hundred." □

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